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Docket No.: SYN-8312

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By: 

Date: December 30, 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applic. No. : 10/728,389 Confirmation No: 9231  
Applicant : Kevin Smith et al.  
Filed : December 5, 2003  
Title : Tissue Retractor and Method for Using the Retractor  
Art Unit : 3731  
Examiner : to be assigned

Docket No. : SYN-8312  
Customer No. : 24131

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Hon. Commissioner for Patents

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98 copies of the following patents and/or publications are submitted herewith:

United States Patent No. 2,108,206 (Meeker), dated February 15, 1938;

United States Patent No. 3,814,104 (Irnich et al.), dated June 4, 1974;

United States Patent No. 6,821,285 B2 (Laufer et al.), dated November 23, 2004;

United States Patent Application Publication US 2004/0193117 A1 (Laufer et al.), dated September 30, 2004;

United States Patent Application Publication US 2004/0193184 A1 (Laufer et al.), dated September 30, 2004;

United States Patent Application Publication US 2004/0193193 A1 (Laufer et al.),  
dated September 30, 2004;

United States Patent Application Publication US 2004/0193194 A1 (Laufer et al.),  
dated September 30, 2004.

As per the Notice in 1273 OG 55 (August 5, 2003) no copies of any above-  
mentioned U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications are submitted for  
any application filed after June 30, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,



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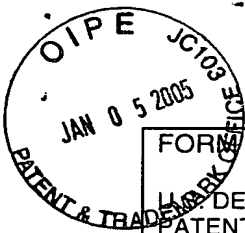
For Applicants

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FORM PTO-1449 (SUBSTITUTE) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (37 CFR 1.98(b))	Attorney Docket No.: <b>SYN-8312</b>  Applicant <b>Kevin Smith et al.</b>  Filing Date <b>December 5, 2003</b>  Applic. No. <b>10/728,389</b>  Group Art Unit <b>3731</b>
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## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIALS		PATENT NO.	DATE	PATENTEE	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE
	A	2,108,206	02/15/38	Meeker			
	B	3,814,104	06/04/74	Irrnich et al.			
	C	6,821,285 B2	11/23/04	Laufer et al.			
	D	2004/0193117 A1	09/30/04	Laufer et al.			
	E	2004/0193184 A1	09/30/04	Laufer et al.			
	F	2004/0193193 A1	09/30/04	Laufer et al.			
	G	2004/0193194 A1	09/30/04	Laufer et al.			
	H						
	I						

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENT

		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS	TRANSL. YES   NO
	J						
	K						
	L						
	M						
	N						

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

	O	
	P	
EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED	

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.